

Regional Services Council Minutes
Friday, May 23, 2014
Department of Child Services
Tippecanoe County
250 Main Street, 3rd Floor

Community Partners report out

Children's Bureau has a new Region 5 Director Holly McFadden replacing Sandy Waldrige (reports distributed) Follow up was requested regarding expenditures that will be done by June 30th.

Bauer report out-anticipate expending all allocated funds by 6/30/2014

There were no new requests for prevention monies at this time.

Budget information

Information for the region was shared with members. Region 5 is on target for this fiscal year within one percentage point. There is some variance in spending from county to county to county within their assigned budgets but overall the region is doing well managing allocations.

Biennial Plan approval and work

The two goals identified in the Biennial Plan were visitation improvement and trauma informed continuum of practice. The plan has been approved at this time and work is beginning on the items. Current trainings that were identified as steps in the trauma informed care continuum for DCS staff have already begun with child development being conducted and caregivers with mental illness coming up in June. Additional action steps will be completed and updates provided to the members.

The visitation standard was produced in the Biennial Plan workgroup as a method of working on system issues together with providers, foster parents, staff and other stakeholders. The first step is to convene a meeting with providers contracted in region 5 for this service standard. This meeting convenes on May 30th.

Trauma conference information

A recent conference was held in Marion County that had speakers focused on trauma and resilience. The Region 5 Regional Manager attended and provided some feedback to the members about its value and potentially looking at a conference such as this in the region in the coming year. It is possible to use prevention dollars and partner other interested parties and conduct this educational opportunity to further our work on the Biennial Plan. The two most compelling speakers were Dr. Eugene Griffin who has practice law and is also a psychologist. He provided a broad overview of trauma and working with high-risk youth. He provided some basic ideas about what individuals working in the child welfare system can do to improve work through a trauma lens. Some of these were provided in hard copy to RSC. Dr. Griffin is currently the Director of Research for The Child Trauma Academy. This website can be found at www.ChildTrauma.org

Christian Moore also spoke. He is an author, clinical social worker and creator of "Why Try". He spoke primarily about resilience. His visuals and focus on how children develop resilience provided a framework for thinking about at risk youth but also how adults can participate in developing resiliency skills. He had a compelling personal story and was an engaged, dynamic speaker that would hold the attention of any professional working with youth. His website for Why Try is at www.whytry.org

The members present and others that attended this Regional Service Council Meeting seemed favorable to additional conversation about planning this event.

Good of the Order

No additions by those present

Next Meeting dates

7/25

9/26

11/21